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REMARKS

The Examiner objected to claim 30 because of a typographical error. As indicated above, claim 30 has been amended to replace the word "director" with the word "directory."

The Examiner rejected claims 21-40 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent Application No. US 2002/0186832 to Mani (hereinafter "Mani") taken in combination with US Patent No. 5,274,693 to Waldman (hereinafter "Waldman"). The Examiner's rejections have been carefully considered and are respectfully traversed for the reasons that follow.

Independent claim 21 recites an apparatus for dialling a communication terminal. The apparatus comprises a memory storing a number of directory entries associated with a number of respective communication terminals. The apparatus comprises an input for entering a string of alphanumeric digits, a comparator for comparing the string to the directory entries, as each digit is entered, and a display for displaying directory entries matching the entered digits. The apparatus further includes a component for selecting one of the matched directory entries and a dialler for dialling the communication terminal associated with the selected directory entry. The operation of the apparatus as each digit is entered is further illustrated with reference to Figs. 3 and 4 and the accompanying description in the specification as filed.

Mani is directed towards a speed dialling service that has a stored table of alphanumeric dialling codes associated with stored phone numbers. According to Mani, the stored phone numbers are originally provided by a subscriber and are later accessible to the subscriber when the subscriber enters an associated alphanumeric code. The system according to Mani functions in a similar manner to a conventional speed dialling service in a stand alone telephone, except that according to Mani the speed dialling services are implemented in a telecommunications system. As compared to the present invention defined by independent claim 21, Mani differs in a number of significant respects. First, the speed dialling service is only offered to

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telephone lines having numbers associated with the speed dialling service. Users placing calls originating from other telephone lines must first enter a feature access code to access the speed dial function or feature before entering an alphanumeric speed dialling code (See, for example, Paragraph 18). Furthermore according to Mani, the entire alphanumeric code must be entered before the system will attempt to match the alphanumeric code with an associated telephone number (See, for example, Paragraphs 19, 25, 28, 35, and 48). Furthermore, Mani fails to disclose, teach or suggest a comparator for comparing the string, **as each digit is entered**, to the plurality of directory entries, as recited in independent claim 21. Additionally, as acknowledged by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office action dated October 19, 2005, Mani fails to disclose, teach or suggest a display for displaying one or more matching directory entries as each digit is entered as recited in independent claim 21.

With reference to Waldman, it is submitted that Waldman fails to cure the deficiencies of Mani and in fact explicitly teaches away from Mani. Waldman is directed to an abbreviated dialling apparatus and method for cellular phones. Waldman states, at Col. 2, that "the instant invention deals with enhanced abbreviated dialing of non-preprogrammed telephone numbers through the use of traditional system dialing resources, without forethought or prior use action, and with no "permanent" or "preprogrammed storage"" (emphasis added). In contrast to Waldman, Mani requires the use of pre-programmed storage, for instance as indicated by elements 504 and 508 of Fig. 5. As a result, there is no motivation for one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Mani and Waldman because modifying the teachings of Mani according to the teachings of Waldman would render the invention of Mani non-functional and unsuitable for its intended purpose. Furthermore, even if one skilled in the art were to somehow overcome the inoperability issue and combine the teachings of Mani with Waldman, it is submitted that the resulting system is not the same as that recited by independent claim 21 for the reasons as discussed above. It is therefore submitted that the invention as defined by independent claim 21 is not obvious in view of Mani combined with Waldman. It is submitted that independent method claim 30 and system claim 37 are also not obvious in view of Mani combined with Waldman for similar reasons.

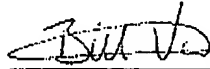
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Since the remaining rejected claims depend either directly, or indirectly, from claim 21, 30 or 37, it is submitted that these claims are also not obvious.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the subject application is in condition for allowance and withdrawal of the Final rejection is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative.

Respectfully Submitted,
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By:



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